



7th Annual Wisconsin Film Festival (Madison, March 31 – April 3, 2005)

## STUDENT SHORTS COMPETITION – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Please keep this sheet as a reference. Please keep a copy of your entry form.

**EARLY ENTRY DEADLINE: Friday, December 3, 2004**

**FINAL DEADLINE: January 21, 2005**

- **Eligibility:** This competition is for Wisconsin students with films under 60 minutes. Entrants must be current, registered students at a college or university in the state of Wisconsin, and/or, the film entered must have been completed while the entrant was a student at a college or university in the state of Wisconsin. Each entry must include a photocopy of the entrant's student ID and proof of enrollment. The Festival reserves the right to verify student / film completion status for any entrant.

Wisconsin students with films over 60 minutes, or students with Wisconsin ties currently attending out-of-state colleges, are encouraged to enter the Wisconsin's Own competition. Other students at non-Wisconsin colleges and universities are encouraged to enter the General Submissions category.

- Entrants who are not yet 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian sign the entry form / certification of entry.
- **Types of Films Accepted:** Narrative, documentary, experimental, or animated films or videos under 60 minutes in length.

**The festival will not consider:** Commercials or advertisements; commercial reels. Educational, industrial, medical or informational films. Video or new media games. Films with prior commercial release, significant theatrical exhibition, commercial TV broadcast or webcast, or in video distribution.

**Other Festivals:** Entries that have been shown in other festivals are eligible for this competition.

- **Completion Date:** Entries submitted should be recent work completed since January 1, 2003. An optical sound-on-film exhibition print or (for videos) videotape must be ready by March 18, 2005.
- **Formats Accepted:** All submission copies must be DVD or VHS videotape. The exhibition formats accepted are 35mm (opt sound); 16mm (opt sound on film), and the following video formats: DigiBeta, Beta SP, DV-Cam, Mini-DV, ¾" U-Matic, DVD, ½" S-VHS, ½" VHS. Other video / digital exhibition formats possible but not guaranteed.
- Entrants can submit more than one entry. Each entry must have a separate entry form and fee.
- Entries previously submitted to the Wisconsin Film Festival cannot be re-submitted.
- Entrants are responsible for securing all necessary rights / permissions for festival exhibition of each work submitted.
- Entries are eligible to be selected for programming and exhibition at the Wisconsin Film Festival, March 31 – April 1, 2005. Entries will be reviewed and selected by a student programming committee, coordinated by the Wisconsin Union Directorate Film Committee at the UW-Madison.
- Entries will also be judged in by a Student Competition jury of film professionals, who will award a "First Prize," "Second Prize" and "Third Prize" for best films (any category). The jury has discretion to award honorable or other special mentions as well. Prizes of \$150 will be awarded to each of the three winners and announced at the end of the Festival.
- Entries that originated on motion picture film (were shot on film) may also be eligible for awards for best achievement in the use of motion picture film and for film stock grants awarded by the jury.
- Entrants should not contact jurors independently about their Festival submissions. Entrants who contact jurors will be disqualified.
- Entrants must agree to the final decisions of Festival programmers and jurors.

**ENTRY DEADLINE:** **January 21, 2005 by 4:30 p.m. No Late Entries Will Be Accepted.**  
Early entries encouraged. Early Deadline: December 3, 2004.  
Deadlines are for receipt of entries.

**ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE:**

- Completed and signed entry form / certification
- Entry fee (check)
- DVD or VHS videotape copy / transfer of the work submitted
- Film synopsis, principal cast / crew list, and brief filmmaker bios
- Photocopy of student ID from Wisconsin college or university and campus transcript or other proof of enrollment (either current or at the time of completion of the film).

**INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

One entry per tape or DVD. Cue tape to start of film. Mark name of film / filmmaker clearly on the case AND the tape or DVD.

We will send notification of receipt of entry to each entrant. Videotapes, photographs or other materials will not be returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope / mailer is included.

If the entry is accepted, filmmakers are encouraged to provide one color still each of the director and from the film, either 8 x 10 photos or 600 dpi 6" x 8" JPEG files, for publicity purposes.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$10      Entries received by early deadline, December 3, 2004.

\$15      Entries received December 4, 2004 – January 21, 2005.

Make checks payable to the UW-Madison Arts Institute. No cash or credit cards. \$20 fee for any check returned by your bank as unpaid / insufficient funds.

**SEND TO:**      **Wisconsin Union Directorate (WUD) Film Committee**  
**ATTN: Wisconsin Film Festival Submissions**  
**Memorial Union Rm. 507**  
**800 Langdon Street**  
**Madison, WI 53706**

**QUESTIONS?**

Visit the Website ([www.wifilmfest.org](http://www.wifilmfest.org)); email [students@wifilmfest.org](mailto:students@wifilmfest.org), or contact the WUD Film Committee Wisconsin Film Festival Interns at (608) 262-1143.





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## "WISCONSIN'S OWN" COMPETITION – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Please keep this sheet as a reference. Please keep a copy of your entry form.

**EARLY ENTRY DEADLINE: Friday, December 3, 2004**

**FINAL DEADLINE: Friday, December 17, 2004**

- **Eligibility:** This competition is for emerging independent filmmakers with "Wisconsin Ties" whose work is not and will not be in commercial theatrical distribution or television broadcast by the Festival dates. Filmmakers with "Wisconsin Ties" whose films are in commercial theatrical distribution or television broadcast are encouraged to contact the Festival about other programming options.

Wisconsin students with films under 60 minutes are strongly encouraged to enter the Student Shorts Competition. Wisconsin students with films over 60 minutes, or Wisconsin students at out-of-state colleges or universities, may enter films in this competition.

- **"Wisconsin Ties."** The film / filmmaker(s) must meet at least one of the following two criteria. The Festival reserves the right to verify Wisconsin Ties for any submission.

1) One or more of the film's principal creative personnel (director, producer, screenwriter or lead actors) must be at least one of the following: a) Wisconsin native; b) Wisconsin resident for one or more years; c) alumnus of a Wisconsin college or university.

2) The film was shot primarily or significantly (at least 1/3) on location in Wisconsin.

- **Types of Films Accepted:** Independent narrative, documentary, experimental, or animated films or videos of any length. New media or multimedia projects will also be considered.

**The festival will not consider:** Commercials or advertisements; commercial reels. Educational, industrial, medical or informational films. Video or new media games. Films in or with prior commercial release, significant theatrical exhibition, commercial TV broadcast or webcast, or significant commercial video distribution.

**Other Festivals, Exhibition:** Entries that have been shown in other festivals or in limited non-commercial exhibition are eligible for this competition. Programming preference is given to films without significant exposure in Wisconsin markets prior to the Festival.

- **Completion Date:** Entries submitted should be recent work completed since January 1, 2003. An optical sound-on-film exhibition print or (for videos) videotape must be ready by March 18, 2005.
- **Formats Accepted:** All submission copies must be DVD or VHS videotape. The exhibition formats accepted are 35mm (opt sound); 16mm (opt sound on film), and the following video formats: DigiBeta, Beta SP, DV-Cam, Mini-DV, 3/4" U-Matic, DVD, 1/2" S-VHS, 1/2" VHS. Other video / digital exhibition formats possible but not guaranteed.
- Entrants can submit more than one film. Each entry must have a separate entry form and fee.
- Entries (i.e., films) previously submitted to the Wisconsin Film Festival cannot be re-submitted.
- Entries will be reviewed by Festival programmers and the Wisconsin's Own jury. Entries are eligible to be selected for programming and exhibition at the Wisconsin Film Festival, March 31–April 3, 2005.
- Entries will be judged for best achievement by the Wisconsin's Own jury. Upon review of entries, the jury and Festival have discretion to award honorable or other special mentions, and to formulate the final list of award categories, which may include: Best Narrative Feature; Best Documentary (any length); Best Experimental / Multimedia (any length); Best Short (narrative, animated).

- Awards for best achievement and cash prizes based on the following guidelines will be decided by the jury and announced at the end of the Festival.

\$350 for features (60 minutes and over)

\$200 for shorts (under 60 minutes)

- Entries that originated on motion picture film (were shot on film) may also be eligible for awards for best achievement in the use of motion picture film and for film stock grants awarded by the jury.
- Entrants are responsible for securing all necessary rights / permissions for festival exhibition of each work submitted.
- Entrants should not contact Festival jurors independently about their Festival submissions. Entrants who contact jurors will be disqualified.
- Entrants must agree to the final decisions of Festival programmers and jurors.

<p><b>ENTRY DEADLINE:</b>    <b>December 17, 2004 by 4:30 p.m. <u>No Late Entries Will Be Accepted.</u></b>  Early entries encouraged. Early Entry Deadline: December 3, 2004.  Deadlines are for receipt of entries.</p>
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#### **ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE:**

- Completed and signed entry form / certification for each entry submitted.
- Entry fee (check) for each entry submitted.
- DVD or VHS videotape copy / transfer of each work submitted.
- Film synopsis, principal cast / crew list, and brief filmmaker bios.
- Press kit if available.
- INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

One entry per tape or DVD, please. Cue tapes to start of film. Mark name of film / filmmaker clearly on the case AND tape or DVD.

We will send notification of receipt of entry to each entrant. Videotapes, photographs or other materials will not be returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope / mailer is included.

Multimedia and new media project entries must include a project description and proposal, visual samples (CD-ROM or ZIP disk ok), and a detailed description of technical / performance needs.

If the entry is accepted, filmmakers **MUST** provide at least one color still each of the director and from the film, either 8 x 10 photos or 600 dpi 6" x 8" JPEG files, for publicity purposes.

#### **ENTRY FEES FOR FILMS RECEIVED BY:**

##### December 3, 2004 (Early Deadline)

Films under 60 minutes: \$17 (\$10 student)  
Films 60 minutes & over: \$27 (\$10 student)

##### Dec. 4 – Dec. 17, 2004 (Final Deadline)

Films under 60 minutes: \$25 (\$15 student)  
Films 60 minutes & over: \$35 (\$15 student)

Make checks payable to the UW-Madison Arts Institute. No cash or credit cards. \$20 fee for any check returned by your bank as unpaid / insufficient funds. Student entrants paying student rate must enclose photocopy of current student ID with payment.

<p><b>SEND TO:</b></p> <p><b>Wisconsin Film Festival</b>  <b>UW-Madison Arts Institute</b>  <b>Vilas Hall Rm. 6038</b>  <b>821 University Avenue</b>  <b>Madison, WI 53706</b></p>	<p><b>ATTN: Submissions</b></p>
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QUESTIONS? Visit [www.wifilmfest.org](http://www.wifilmfest.org); email [info@wifilmfest.org](mailto:info@wifilmfest.org), or call (877) 963-FILM.





7th Annual Wisconsin Film Festival (Madison, March 31 – April 3, 2005)

## SUBMISSIONS FAQ

### Q. What's New for 2005?

A. For 2005, we've worked to clarify the eligibility requirements for both the Wisconsin's Own and Wisconsin Student Competitions (including changing the name of the Student Competition to "Student Shorts Competition"); added "lead actor" to the Wisconsin's Own Competition list of qualifying creative personnel with Wisconsin ties; provided some information on what Festival programmers are looking for in films (see below); increased the amount of cash awards for competitions and implemented a very slight increase in entry fees (the first since 2001). See the 2005 Entry Requirements and forms (above) and FAQ's (below) for details.

### Q. What kinds of films ARE you looking for?

A. First, to be considered for programming, entries must meet the eligibility requirements for each category / competition, so please review those closely.

In general, the Festival seeks to program original, quality independent film, documentary, experimental film, world cinema, and new media. In the Wisconsin's Own and Student Short Competitions, we showcase the work of Wisconsin filmmakers and students. We want to present quality work that may not otherwise be seen in commercial theaters, as well as quality work by filmmakers often marginalized by the mainstream film industry.

We are looking for:

- At minimum, competence (and at best, excellence) in filmmaking craft
- Uniqueness of vision
- Original subject matter
- An independent spirit
- Great stories well-told
- Diverse voices
- Films that display excellence in conventional style, narrative or documentary form
- Films that challenge conventional style, narrative or documentary form

In the Wisconsin's Own Competition and showcase, we aim to program a good representation of work by filmmakers with Wisconsin ties, including Wisconsin natives, those currently living in the state, or those who shot the film primarily in Wisconsin. For the Student Shorts Competition, we aim for to program a good representation of work by students at Wisconsin colleges and universities. For both these competitions, we want to program a variety of quality work representing diverse styles, subjects and voices; support emerging regional filmmakers; and include films that have community relevance.

As with any festival programming, these criteria are interpreted and applied by a committee of programmers, including the Festival Director. Entrants must agree to the final decisions of Festival programmers and jurors.

For examples of past work programmed by the Festival, please see [Films](#) (2004) and the [Archive](#) (for 2001 - 2003). For a list of 2004 programmers and jurors, see [About](#).

**Q. Does it matter how big or small my budget was, or if I have an agent or celebrities, or if it's a genre film, or if it's black & white, or if it's on video, or if a previous film was accepted or rejected before, or if I do or don't know anyone at the Festival?**

A. No. Decisions are made on the basis of the work itself. Each film is carefully considered for eligibility and by the programming criteria.

**Q. Who judges the film competitions?**

A. The Wisconsin's Own and Wisconsin Student Filmmaker Competitions are juried by three-person panels of film professionals, including filmmakers, film industry professionals, and critics or curators who have a commitment to supporting regional filmmakers and film culture in Wisconsin. Often, jurors have Wisconsin roots or are UW-Madison alumni. For biographies of 2004 jurors, please see About. Entries for both competitions are pre-screened for eligibility by panels of Festival programmers. The jurors view films, and as is customary for Festival juries, have the discretion to formulate the final list of award categories, give awards for best achievement in those categories, and award honorable or other special mentions. For examples of past awards given by Festival juries, please see [Awards](#) (2004) and the [Archive](#) (for 2001 - 2003).

**Q. How many Wisconsin films are programmed each year?**

A. In general, about 20% of the overall Wisconsin Film Festival programming consists of work by filmmakers with Wisconsin ties and Wisconsin student filmmakers. We program approximately 25 to 30 films in the Wisconsin's Own competition and about 20 Wisconsin Student films each year. These numbers are not hard & fast; we will work to include as many eligible Wisconsin films that meet the programming criteria each year.

**Q. If I am a Wisconsin filmmaker, will my film automatically be accepted in the Wisconsin's Own Competition?**

A. No. Submissions to the Wisconsin's Own Competition are selected for programming based on the eligibility and the criteria outlined above.

**Q. I'm a filmmaker with Wisconsin ties, and I've made a feature film that has been picked up for commercial theatrical distribution and/or national commercial television broadcast. Can I enter the Wisconsin's Own competition?**

A. We ask that you not enter the Wisconsin's Own Competition, but please DO contact the Festival about other programming options for your film, as we like to showcase Wisconsin filmmakers at all levels. The competition is for emerging and independent filmmakers whose work is not in commercial theatrical distribution or television broadcast. If you have questions about whether to submit your film, please contact the Festival at [info@wifilmfest.org](mailto:info@wifilmfest.org).

**Q. What if my film has been shown in another Festival?**

A. Entries that have been shown in other festivals are eligible to be programmed at the Wisconsin Film Festival.

**Q. What if my film has been screened in Wisconsin before?**

A. The Festival does not program films that have had prior commercial release, significant theatrical exhibition, commercial TV broadcast or webcast, or significant commercial video distribution. We do consider films that may have been shown in Wisconsin in non-commercial screenings (e.g., single screening by local festival or filmmakers group, single broadcast on local public television or cable access station) or have had limited video self-distribution, but preference is given to films without significant exposure in Wisconsin markets prior to the Festival.



**Q. I'm a student at a Wisconsin university / college. I made a film over 60 minutes. In which category should I submit my film?**

A. Wisconsin Student entries over 60 minutes must enter the Wisconsin's Own competition. With a valid student ID, you can pay the discounted student rate.

**Q. I grew up in Wisconsin, but I now attend college out-of-state. In which category should I submit my film?**

A. You can submit your film in the Wisconsin's Own competition. With a valid student ID, you can pay the discounted student rate. The Wisconsin Student Short Competition is for films by current students at Wisconsin colleges and universities.

**Q. I'm a student at a non-Wisconsin college or university, and I never lived in Wisconsin. In which category should I submit my film?**

A. You can submit your film in the General Submissions Category. With a valid student ID, you can pay the discounted student rate. The Wisconsin Student Short Competition is for films by current students at Wisconsin colleges and universities.

**Q. I go to a college in Wisconsin but do not attend a university in the UW System. Can I still submit my film to the Student Competition?**

A. Yes! We accept entries from students at public and private Wisconsin colleges and universities, including technical colleges and non-UW System schools.

**Q. I am a high school student. Can I submit a film to the Student Competition?**

A. We do not accept films made by high school students in the Student Shorts Competition, which is for student filmmakers at Wisconsin colleges and universities. However, if you are a current student at a Wisconsin college or university, and have completed a film since January 1, 2003, you could enter the film into the Student Shorts competition if you meet the other entry requirements. In other words, if you started a project in high school and finished it as a college student after our cutoff date, you could enter the film into the Student Shorts Competition if the film meets all the other entry requirements.

**Q. Can you waive the submissions fee?**

A. Unfortunately, no. As a nonprofit University-community film festival that barely covers its costs each year, we can certainly empathize with filmmakers working on a tight budget. However, our policy is not to waive any entry fees. As much as we would like to charge no entry fees at all, our sponsorship income and box office revenues do not fully cover the cost of processing the submissions, administering the juries and the awards, and presentation and promotion of the films selected for the Festival. Our mostly volunteer "staff" and programmers devote a lot of time to carefully considering each entry. To make the Festival submissions (and attendance) accessible while making sure we cover costs, our approach is to have both entry fees and ticket prices on the low end of the scale. A discounted student rate is available, and the entry fees are the lowest if you make the early entry deadline.

**Q. How many films can I submit?**

A. As many as you like. However, each submitted film must have its own VHS tape or DVD, completed Submission Form, Entry Fee, and supplemental materials. Please DO NOT put multiple projects on the same screening tape or DVD.

**Q. How do you distinguish shorts from features?**

A. Shorts are under 60 minutes. Features are 60 minutes and over.

**Q. Can I submit a rough cut?**

A. "Rough Cuts," "Avid Cuts," or "Temp Prints" will be accepted. We receive rough cuts every year, and the programmers and jurors are familiar with them. Please list directly on the tape box which elements of your film are missing. You must also confirm that you will have a final exhibition cut ready by the deadline listed in the submissions guidelines.

**Q. Can I submit my film with a "temp track" or "scratch music?"**

A. "Temp Tracks," "Scratch Music," or "Temp Sound" will be accepted. Again, you should always list directly on the tape box which elements are missing.

**Q. Can I re-submit my film from last year?**

A. No, you cannot re-submit the same film entered in past years. However, if the film has been significantly re-edited (not just tweaked) to the point that it is a qualitatively different film (e.g., edited down from a feature to a short), you may resubmit it. The decision as to whether the editing is significant enough so that the re-submission is eligible will be made by Festival programmers.

**Q. Can I arrange a screening for you of my film print?**

A. No. We screen all submissions on ½" VHS videotape or DVD.

**Q. If my film is not chosen, can I speak with a programmer for notes or feedback?**

A. Unfortunately, no. With hundreds of films submitted each year, we don't have enough time to speak or correspond with you individually about your film.



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